

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 01351 081506Z

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ACTION CU-03

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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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FOR CU/ARA

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, PN (PEREZ, CAMILO O.)

THE EMBASSY NOMINATES DR. CAMILO O. PEREZ FOR A 30-DAY IV GRANT (CODE 310) DR. PEREZ IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT NOMINEES THIS YEAR. FOR THIS REASON, BEFORE APPROACHING HIM, THE EMBASSY WISHES TO OBTAIN THE DEPARTMENT'S ASSURANCE THAT A PROGRAM AND GENERAL TREATMENT, COMMENSURATE WITH DR. PEREZ' QUALIFICATIONS, STATURE, INFLUENCE AND PERSONALITY, CAN BE ARRANGED.

BIO DATA: CAMILO O. PEREZ MID 30'S, PANAMANIAN. PRESENT POSITIONS: LAWYER; JOURNALIST (DAILY COLUMN IN GOP CONTROLLED, CRITICA); ASSISTANT DEAN, FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF PANAMA, DIRECTOR OF WORLD PEACE COUNCIL. TRAVELS: CYPRUS, 1974; POLAND AND SOVIET UNION, 1973; ITALY. HOLDS LAW DEGREE, UNIVERSITY OF PANAMA; ALSO STUDIED IN ITALY. WIFE IS ITALIAN. WILL REQUIRE ESCORT-INTERPRETER. IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR A VISA.

DR. PEREZ IS A PARTNER IN A LEADING PANAMA LAW FIRM. AS ASSISTANT DEAN HE OCCUPIES IMPORTANT POSITION AT THE UNIVERSITY. HE IS A LIKELY CANDIDATE FOR DEAN (AND LAST YEAR SERVED PERIOD AS ACTING DEAN). AS A JOURNALIST HE IS A FREQUENT CRITIC OF US FOREIGN POLICIES, ESPECIALLY RELATED TO THE PANAMA CANAL. HIS COLUMN IS WIDELY READ AND WIELDS MUCH INFLUENCE THROUGHOUT PRESS CIRCLES, GOP AND THE UNIVERSITY OF PANAMA, ESPECIALLY AMONG STUDENTS.

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PAGE 02 PANAMA 01351 081506Z

DR. PEREZ IS SENSITIVE, PROUD, LOYAL AND DEDICATED TO HIS COUNTRY'S NATIONAL INTERESTS. HE IS HONEST AND CNDID, HAS AN OPEN MIND. HE LIVES WELL, ENJOYS THE FINE THINGS IN LIFE. A VISITOR PROGRAM MUST CONTEMPLATE THESE FACTORS.

DR. PEREZ IS NOT WELL INFORMED ABOUT THE US. THE EMBASSY WOULD WANT THE FOLLOWING KINDS OF ACTIVITIES EMPHASIZED: EXPOSURE TO THE CONCEPT OF OUR FEDERAL SYSTEM; THE LEGAL STRUCTURE AND POLITICAL PROCESSES IN OUR COUNTRY; THE COURT SYSTEM; INTERVIEWS WITH HIGH JUSTICES OR WITH LAW GRADUATES ASSIGNED TO THE SUPREME COURT; LAW SCHOOLS AT GEORGETOWN, YALE, HARVARD, MICHIGAN, THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA LAW SCHOOL WHER PROF. BORIS KAZOLCHYK IS WORKING ON A PROJECT TO HARMONIZE ROMAN AND ANGLO-SAXON LAW; CONTACT WITH THE CONGRESS -- PAT HOLT, SENATOR MCGEE, OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE; APPOINTMENTS WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICERS -- ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS, MR. RICHARD BLOOMFIELD, THE PANAMA DESK, THE OFFICE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS FOR SOME ORIENTATION ON TREATY RATIFICATION PROCESS; THE UN ASSOCIATION WHICH EXERTS INFLUENCE THROUGHOUT THE US; THE LINOWITZ COMMISSION; THE CENTER OF INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS. MEETINGS WITH EDITORS AND COLUMNISTS OF MIDDLE SIZE NEWSPAPER -- AN APPOINTMENT WITH BILL MOYERS, FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD BE EXCELLENT.

A LOOK AT MIDDLE AMERICA, AT US GRASS ROOTS -- LIONS CLUBS AND OTHER COMMUNITY/CIVIC GROUPS; A GLIMPSE AT WHAT THE US IS DOING FOR ITS UNDERPRIVILEGED; SOCIAL SERVICE WORK; THE JOB CORPS. A VISIT TO WESTERN US, PERHAPS BERKELEY.

IN ALL HIS CONTACTS, ESPECIALLY WITHIN THE USG, DR. PEREZ SHOULD HAVE AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO PUT FORTH HIS VIEWS ON THE PC TREATY. IF POSSIBLE HE SHOULD BE SCHEDULED FOR FORMAL LECTURES, IN SPANISH, AT INSTITUTES OF LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES.

THERE IS CERTAIN RISK INVOLVED IN SENDING DR. PEREZ TO THE U.S. A SHARP OBSERVER, WELL INFORMED, WORLDY-WISE, MUCH INCLINED TOWARD THIRD-WORLD ATTITUDES, DR. PEREZ IS A POTENTIAL CRITIC, IF HIS TRIP DOES NOT GO WELL, IF HIS EGO IS BRUISED, OR IF HIS GREAT RESPECT FOR TRUTH, HONESTY AND JUSTICE ARE, IN ANY WAY, DISPARAGED OR TRIFLED WITH.
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PAGE 03 PANAMA 01351 081506Z

A PROGRAM FOR DR. PEREZ IS, OF COURSE, SUBJECT TO HIS OWN DESIRES AND INERESTS. NEVERTHELESS, THE EMBASSY WOULD FIND IT MOST HELPFUL TO HAVE A PRELIMINARY RESPONSE FROM THE DEAPRTMENT INDICATING THE PROSPECTS OF WORKING OUT A TAILORED PROGRAM FOR THIS VERY SPECIAL LEADER.

THE EMBASSY CANNOT GIVE AN ESTIMATE OF THE NOMINEE'S

AVAILABILITY BUT WOULD LIKE TO OFFER DR. PEREZ AN EARLY
DEPARTURE DATE, IF CONVENIENT TO HIM AND IF THE DEPARTMENT CAN
FIT HIM IN AT THIS VERY BUSY TIME OF YEAR.

REGARDING AN ESCORT INTERPRETER THE EMBASSY SUGGESTS BROOKS
MICHEL WHOSE SPANISH IS FLAWLESS, WHOSE KNOWLEDGE OF LA IS
EXTENSIVE AND WHOSE INTELLECTUAL CURIOSITY AND MANNER BLEND WELL
WITH THAT OF DR. PEREZ.
JORDEN

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